

# Cabinet

4 September 2019

<b>Report of:</b>	<b>Portfolio Holder for Housing &amp; Communities</b>
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## CHILDREN AND ADULTS SAFEGUARDING POLICY

<b>1.0 Corporate Priority:</b>	<b>Decision Type:</b>
1.1 PP2: Work with our partners to address vulnerability and tackle the root causes of social problems, building safe, happy and healthy communities	Key Decision
<b>2.0 Summary:</b>	
2.1 To seek approval for the Melton Borough Council Safeguarding Policy for Children and Adults.	
2.2 To highlight that Melton Borough Council is fully committed to its duties and responsibilities to safeguard vulnerable individuals through the adoption of the above Policy and actions which will be taken as a result of the Policy being adopted.	
<b>3.0 Recommendations</b>	
3.1 <b>That Cabinet approve the Melton Borough Council Safeguarding Policy for Children and Adults.</b>	
3.2 <b>That Cabinet delegate authority to the Deputy Chief Executive in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Communities to approve any subsequent changes as a result of legislative or operational changes.</b>	
<b>4.0 Reason for Recommendation:</b>	
4.1 A robust safeguarding Policy will support the Council to effectively discharge its statutory duties in relation to safeguarding. It will also ensure that a consistent approach to safeguarding exists across all Council services.	
<b>5.0 Alternative Options Considered</b>	
5.1 To not approve a Policy for safeguarding - This is not considered to be a viable option as the Council will not be able to evidence that is meeting its statutory responsibilities in relation to safeguarding. The approach to safeguarding in exercising the Council's functions may also be inconsistent.	

<b>6.0</b>	<b>Report Detail</b>
6.1	Safeguarding is a statutory function for local authorities and has, in recent years, seen a significant increase in the number of duties being placed under it. These duties include, but are not limited to; modern slavery, forced marriage, "Prevent" (counter terrorism and security) and child sexual exploitation.
6.2	To ensure that the Council is actively safeguarding vulnerable individuals within our communities, we must ensure that we have robust policies and procedures in place to guide staff, elected Members and our partners in all safeguarding matters.
6.3	Safeguarding is the responsibility of everybody; Officers at every level across the organisation and elected Members have a responsibility to ensure the effectiveness of its safeguarding arrangements, respond to safeguarding concerns and comply with the Council's duties through its own service delivery and provision to promote the welfare of children, young people and adults at risk.
6.4	This responsibility also extends to raising concerns or making complaints about the behaviour of staff or volunteers working with children, young people or adults at risk within the organisation through the Council's Whistleblowing Procedure.
6.5	Safeguarding cannot be achieved by one agency alone and the role we play, alongside our partners to effectively deliver this commitment across the Melton Borough is paramount.
6.6	The key responsibility for safeguarding sits with Leicestershire County Council as Melton Borough Council is a referring agency only. Therefore the Council has a duty of care to individuals to safeguard their wellbeing, and protect them from abuse whilst they are engaged with services organised and provided by Melton Borough Council.

<b>7.0</b>	<b>Consultation and Feedback (including Scrutiny Committee)</b>
7.1	Consultation and feedback in relation to the content of the policy has taken place with designated safeguarding officers both within the Council and across the County.
7.2	No external consultation has taken place.

<b>8.0</b>	<b>Next Steps</b>
8.1	Once approved, the Policy will be published on the website and available via the Council's intranet system.
8.2	All staff are required, through induction and periodically thereafter, to undertake some safeguarding training. This is largely provided through the Council's e-learning modules. Future work will be required to ensure that all staff and elected Members receive safeguarding training and understand the procedures for reporting safeguarding concerns.
8.3	Procedures will be updated within services to ensure compliance with the Policy

<b>9.0</b>	<b>Financial Implications</b>
9.1	No financial implications have been identified in respect of this report or the attached Policy.

<b>10.0</b>	<b>Legal and Governance Implications:</b>
10.1	This report and attached Policy reflects the legislative requirements placed on the Council in respect of safeguarding.
10.2	<p>Under the Children Act 1989, Local Authorities, have a general duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children within their area who are in need (Section 17 Children Act 1989).</p> <p>Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 places duties on a range of organisations and individuals to ensure their functions, and any services that they contract out to others, are discharged having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.</p> <p>The duty under Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 is placed on local authorities and district councils that provide children's and other types of services, including, housing, sport, culture and leisure services, licensing authorities and youth services.</p> <p>In addition to these Section 11 duties, further safeguarding duties are also placed on individual organisations through other statutes such as Part 1 of the Housing Act 2004.</p> <p>There is a legal requirement on districts and boroughs to have vulnerable adults safeguarding arrangements in place or to report suspected abuse of adults under the Care Act 2014.</p> <p>The updated Policy will be available to third parties and procurement procedures include the need for contractors to have a safeguarding policy in place that complies with the council's policy and have suitable arrangements in place to ensure compliance with relevant legislation</p>

<b>11.0</b>	<b>Equality and Safeguarding Implications:</b>
11.1	An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has been completed.
11.2	The EIA demonstrates how the policy meets the Equality Act requirement to have 'due regard' and that consideration has been given to identify any potential or actual impact (Positive or Negative) that the policy has on differing groups of people.
11.3	The EIA highlights any outstanding actions and next steps such as monitoring of safeguarding referrals to identify groups that are most impacted in relation to safeguarding.

**12.0 Community Safety Implications:**

12.1 Safeguarding runs through various strands of Community Safety, including any casework carried out by the Council, helping to inform and support the work that we carry out to meet our statutory obligations under the Crime and Disorder Act 2011.

**13.0 Other Implications**

13.1 .None identified

**14.0 Risk & Mitigation:**

14.1

<b>L I K E L I H O O D</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>Very High</b>				
	<b>B</b>	<b>High</b>				
	<b>C</b>	<b>Significant</b>				
	<b>D</b>	<b>Low</b>			1, 2	
	<b>E</b>	<b>Very Low</b>				
	<b>F</b>	<b>Almost Impossible</b>				
			<b>Negligible 1</b>	<b>Marginal 2</b>	<b>Critical 3</b>	<b>Catastrophic 4</b>

**IMPACT**

<b>Risk No</b>	<b>Risk Description</b>
<b>1</b>	Failure to implement an effective safeguarding policy puts children, young people and adults with care and support needs at risk.
<b>2</b>	Children’s Alternative Case reviews / Serious Case Reviews following harm or death of an individual highlight failures within the process and consequently has a reputational impact.

**Background Papers:**

None

**Appendices**

Appendix 1 - Melton Borough Council Safeguarding Policy – Adults and Children

**Report Timeline:****Director Approval : 2019****Chief Finance Officer Sign Off :**

20.08.19

**Monitoring Officer Sign Off:**

19.08.19

**Chief Executive Sign Off:**

27.08.19

**Exempt Reports**

N/A

**Date of Review to make public**

N/A

**Report Author**

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